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## INTERNATIONAL BOOK AWARDS

USA BOOK NEWS ANNOUNCES WINNERS AND FINALISTS OF THE 2014  
INTERNATIONAL BOOK AWARDS  
Mainstream & Independent Titles Score Top Honors in the 5th Annual International Book Awards

May 21, 2014, LOS ANGELES

USA Book News announced the winners and finalists of THE 2014 INTERNATIONAL BOOK AWARDS (IBA). Over 300 winners and finalists were announced in over 80 categories. Jeffrey Keen, President and CEO of USA Book News, said this year's contest yielded over 1200 entries from authors and publishers around the world, which were then narrowed down to the final results.

**Best-selling author and speaker Mara Purl brought home the gold not once, but twice, with two of her novels winning top prizes. *What the Heart Knows*, book one of Purl's Milford-Haven Novels, landed as winner for Romance. *Where the Heart Lives*, book two of Purl's saga, won top honors for Women's Lit.**

Purl was elated at the news. "Since I grew up overseas and attended an international school in Tokyo," she explained, "these awards are very dear to my heart. I cherish the opportunity to reach out to readers in the many other countries where English is read and spoken, whether as a first, or as a second language. It's a thrill to reach readers beyond American borders."

Keen says of the awards, "The 2014 results represent a phenomenal mix of books from a wide array of publishers throughout the world. With a full publicity and marketing campaign promoting the results of IBA, this year's winners and finalists will gain additional media coverage for the summer season." Keen adds, "IBA's success begins with the enthusiastic participation of authors and publishers and continues with our distinguished panel of industry judges who bring to the table their extensive editorial, PR, marketing, and design expertise."

Purl's novels are based on her original radio drama, which was an international hit, garnering 4.5 million listeners throughout the U.K.. Later developed as the Milford-Haven Novels, the series is once again beginning to find an international audience. Book One, "What the Heart Knows" became a best-seller in 2011, and each book in her series has followed suit, making Mara a leading voice in Women's Fiction. "I write about the heart," she declared, "and about how we as women tend to put our own feelings aside, putting our spouses, families, and jobs first. And I believe this is true in many cultures, not just America. It's our hearts that give us meaning and purpose."